

Senate File 2235 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2235

BY BOETTGER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to high school examinations on the Constitution
2 of the United States and the Constitution of the State of
3 Iowa.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds all of the
2 following:

3 1. The purpose of education is to develop a knowledgeable
4 and well-informed citizenry.

5 2. Education is the foundation upon which a free democratic
6 society is based.

7 3. Citizens must know the basis of how their government
8 operates in order to maintain their liberties and rights.

9 Sec. 2. Section 280.9A, Code 2011, is amended by adding the
10 following new subsection:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The board of directors of each local
12 public school district operating a high school and the
13 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
14 operating a high school shall require that prior to the
15 completion of grade twelve all students pass, as a condition of
16 graduation, an examination on the Constitution of the United
17 States and the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

18 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
19 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
20 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
21 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
22 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
23 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
24 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
25 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
26 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
27 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
28 districts.

29 EXPLANATION

30 This bill requires each student at a public or nonpublic
31 high school, as a condition of graduation, to pass prior to the
32 completion of grade 12 an examination on the Constitution of
33 the United States and the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

34 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
35 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of

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1 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
2 district from state school foundation aid received by the
3 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
4 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
5 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
6 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
7 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
8 mandates included in the bill.